

X Aug 2

X Sec 6 D. Vietnam

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X Aug 2 Paul D. HARKINS

# Mme. Nhu Suggests U. S. Cut Aid Force

CPYRGHT

SAIGON, South Viet-Nam, Sept. 4 (UPI) — South Viet-Nam's powerful Mme. Ngo Dinh Nhu suggested today that the United States withdraw some of its civilian aid personnel because she has the "impression" that some of them are U. S. Central Intelligence Agency agents.

"First of all," she said, "there are too many people here—I mean civilian personnel. American military advisers are very useful here, and on the whole they're very correct."

Asked whether she thought many of the American civilians were intelligence agents, Madame Nhu said:

"I do not know, but I have that impression. We need only military personnel, because we are not trained

in that line. But these civilians — we do not need them, for we do not need anybody to administer our country."

## Criticizes Kennedy

Madame Nhu, beautiful and sharp-tongued sister-in-law of President Ngo Dinh Diem, told newsmen at a press conference that President Kennedy is incorrect if he assumes that the Diem government has lost touch with the people.

She said she did not want to believe that Mr. Kennedy had made such a statement, but if "President Kennedy really said that, it is very serious, because it shows the American Government is absolutely misinformed."

Madame Nhu, whose husband is President Diem's

closest adviser, said she saw no immediate danger of a coup d'etat against the government.

She said her husband had received a letter from an American general stationed in the United States warning him of a plot against his life. She said she did not know the general.

## 'No Joke,' Nhu Says

She said the letter warned Nhu that unnamed plotters might try to assassinate him with a phosphorous bomb. She said she did not believe the warning at first, but that her husband told her, "It's no joke."

A U. S. military spokesman here said the American Military Assistance Command had no knowledge of any such

letter and considered it "inappropriate" to give credence to any such report.

American Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge meanwhile met with French Ambassador Lallouette. Informal diplomatic sources said they exchanged views on renewed French interest in Viet-Nam indicated by President Charles de Gaulle's recent statement to the press in Paris.

## Saigon Army Rule Seen Cutting War Effort 50%

By Ed Magher  
The Los Angeles Times

SAIGON, Sep. 4 — Gen. Paul D. Harkins, U. S. military commander in South Viet-Nam, today said that martial law has reduced by almost 50 per cent the war effort against the Communist rebels.

He added, however, in an interview, that "I am not discouraged, and the people in the field feel the same way."

He said the tension accompanying martial law in Saigon and other major cities was virtually absent in the farm lands and in the smaller villages, where most of Viet-Nam's population, and most of her armed forces, are to be found.

With the gradual relaxation of martial law in the last week, many Vietnamese army units have been returned to regular duty, Harkins said. He made it clear, however, that the military effort has suffered.